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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

21839 7590 04/01/2009

BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

CHERRY, STEPHEN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/585,946

07/11/2006

Koji Yamashita

1019519-000537

1465

TITLE OF INVENTION: EQUIPMENT DIAGNOSIS DEVICE, REFRIGERATING CYCLE APPARATUS, FLUID CIRCUIT DIAGNOSIS METHOD, EQUIPMENT MONITORING SYSTEM, AND REFRIGERATING CYCLE MONITORING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional

NO

\$1510

\$300

\$0

\$1810

07/01/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

21839 7590 04/01/2009

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/585,946 07/11/2006 Koji Yamashita 1019519-000537 1465

TITLE OF INVENTION: EQUIPMENT DIAGNOSIS DEVICE, REFRIGERATING CYCLE APPARATUS, FLUID CIRCUIT DIAGNOSIS METHOD, EQUIPMENT MONITORING SYSTEM, AND REFRIGERATING CYCLE MONITORING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 07/01/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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CHERRY, STEPHEN J 2863 702-183000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,946	07/11/2006	Koji Yamashita	1019519-000537	1465
21839	7590	04/01/2009	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			CHERRY, STEPHEN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2863	
DATE MAILED: 04/01/2009				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 258 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 258 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/585,946

Applicant(s)

YAMASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen J. Cherry

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2-11-2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-23 and 33-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1-21-2009
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-23 and 33-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 12 recites, "wherein the judgment unit for judging the operating condition of the refrigerating cycle acquires a threshold for distinguishing between a normal operating condition and an abnormal operating condition by converting at least one of the measured values or the arithmetic values into another value and making the arithmetic operation on a plurality of variables including the value after conversion". This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 13 recites, "a comparison unit for comparing the distances between current operating state quantities including at least a state quantity obtained by making the arithmetic operation on the correlation between the plurality of measured values in a current operating condition of the refrigerating cycle as the plurality of variables and the plurality of normal state quantities stored in the normal state quantity storage unit or the plurality of abnormal state quantities stored in the abnormal state quantity unit; and a judgment unit for judging a degree of normality, a degree of abnormality or a cause of abnormality of the refrigerating cycle from the distances compared by the comparison unit or a change in a distance". This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 20 recites, "a judgment unit for judging an operating condition of the refrigerating cycle including a refrigerant leakage by storing measured values of each

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measurement unit or arithmetic values calculated from the measured values, and comparing the stored values and the current measured values or arithmetic values; and an output unit for outputting refrigerant leakage information in preference to other abnormalities of the refrigerating cycle, when the refrigerant leakage is judged". This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 33 recites, "wherein the judgment unit for judging the operating condition of the refrigerating cycle acquires a threshold for distinguishing between a normal operating condition and an abnormal operating condition by converting at least one of the measured values or the arithmetic values into another value and making the arithmetic operation on a plurality of variables including the value after conversion". This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 34 recites, "a normal state storage unit for learning and storing an arithmetic operation result of the arithmetic unit as a normal state in a condition where the refrigerating cycle is normally operating, an abnormal state storage unit for learning and storing the arithmetic operation result of the arithmetic unit as an abnormal state in a condition where the refrigerating cycle is abnormally operating, and a plurality of thresholds set halfway in a distance between arithmetic operation results of the normal state and the abnormal state that are stored, wherein a distance between the arithmetic operation result of a current operating condition and a threshold or a temporal change in

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the distance is displayed in the remote monitoring apparatus”. This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 35 recites, “a comparison unit for comparing distances between current state quantities obtained from a current operating condition of the refrigerating cycle and the state quantities stored in the normal state storage unit or the state quantities stored in the abnormal state storage unit; and a judgment unit for judging a degree of normality, a degree of abnormality or a cause of abnormality in the refrigerating cycle from the distances compared by the comparison unit or a change in a distance; wherein at least one of the current state quantities, the distances compared by the comparison unit or the change in the distance, and the degree of normality, the degree of abnormality or the cause of abnormality for the refrigerating cycle judged by the judgment unit is transmitted by a transmission unit formed by wire or radio”. This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 36 recites, “wherein information as to presumed time taken until a failure of equipment occurs based on the arithmetic values measured and calculated at a normal operating time and an operating time elapsed of the refrigerating cycle, the arithmetic values being measured and calculated in a current operating condition, is transmitted and displayed to the remote monitoring apparatus via the transmission unit”. This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

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Claim 38 recites, “further comprising an output unit for setting a refrigerant amount or refrigerant leakage amount within the refrigerating cycle as the arithmetic value equivalent to each amount and outputting the abnormality of the refrigerating cycle as an electric signal or communicating it as a communication code, wherein a refrigerant leakage, if detected, is outputted to the remote monitoring apparatus prior to other judgment results of the judgment unit”. This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Claim 39 recites, “a refrigerant leakage foreseeing unit for foreseeing a time when the refrigerant leaks out of the refrigerating cycle by comparing distances between the arithmetic operation result of making the arithmetic operation on the correlation between the physical quantities of the refrigerant in a current operating condition and at least one of the normal condition and the abnormal condition that are stored, wherein a foreseen result of the refrigerant leakage foreseeing unit is transmitted to a remote monitoring apparatus”. This feature, combined with additional claimed subject matter, overcomes the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Cherry whose telephone number is (571) 272-2272. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2863

Drew A. Dunn
/Drew A. Dunn/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2863